

REMARKS

This response responds to the Office Action dated September 25, 2003, in which the Examiner required Applicants under 35 U.S.C § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution.

As indicated above, minor informalities in claims 27 and 34 have been corrected. The amendments are unrelated to a statutory requirement for patentability and do not narrow the literal scope of the claims. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner approves the corrections.

In the Office Action, the Examiner identified eight distinct species. The Examiner required the Applicants, under 35 U.S.C. §121, to elect a single species for prosecution. The eight species identified by the Examiner are:

- A. Species of Fig. 15,
- B. Species of Fig. 16,
- C. Species of Fig. 18,
- D. Species of Fig. 19,
- E. Species of Fig. 20,
- F. Species of Fig. 21,
- G. Species of Fig. 22,
- H. Species of Fig. 23.

Pursuant to the Examiner's requirement, the Applicants elect Species C, Fig. 18 claimed in claims 1-25, 38-49, 63 and 65-69. It is understood that claims 26-37, 50-62 and 64 will be withdrawn from prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications.

An earlier examination and favorable action on claims 1-25, 38-49, 63 and 65-69 are respectfully requested.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to

charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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